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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 28 June 1955

SUBJECT Aluminum Plant in Kety

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. General. The aluminum plant Zaklad Metali Kety, at Kety, Poland, is currently only in the first stage of its development. When completed, it is said that it will be the largest aluminum smelting and rolling plant in Europe. It is not known whether it will include a reduction plant for producing primary aluminum.

2. In autumn 1954, a smelting hall and a supply shed, both of which measured 213 x 28 x 14 meters, were completed. The foundation work for the construction of seven more such buildings was under way. At that time, the general manager of the plant boasted that the final plan called for a total of 18 such buildings. It is known that construction will continue through 1956. (See Attachment A for a sketch of the plant.)

3. Location. The aluminum plant is located on the outskirts of Kety, a town with a population of about 15,000. Kety is on a single-track railroad line between Krakow and Bielicz, approximately 18 kilometers from the latter town. The Kety station is a turnout with four tracks and two shunting tracks. A spur track connects to the aluminum plant. The town is not on any main highway but is served only by country roads in poor state of repair; there are no waterways to Kety.

4. From both an industrial and strategic point of view, the plant is in an inconvenient location. Besides having inadequate communications, the plant is built on a plateau on which every one of its buildings must be clearly visible even from an altitude of 7,000 meters. The only obvious advantage in the plant's location would seem to be the adequate manpower of the region. (For the general location of the plant, see Attachment B.)

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bound to increase with the size of the plant. The majority of the 500 workers employed at the time were residents of the Kety area, but a small number of Austrian, German, and Czech technicians were temporarily working there.

6. Although Polish newspapers wrote that a huge aluminum plant at Kety is under construction "with the help of Russian specialists" there Russian

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engineer at the plant. The staff is Polish, the furnaces are from Austria, the cranes from Czechoslovakia, the rolling mill from East Germany, and the pure aluminum from Hungary. The only foreigners at the Kety plant are Austrian, East German, and Czech technicians who are there temporarily to install equipment and facilities.

7. Mechanical Installations. The Kety plant currently has three low-frequency furnaces in operation. They consist of two 1,500 kg furnaces at least 10 years old, which the Poles dismantled in another plant and reassembled at Kety, and one new 3,000 kg furnace supplied by Siemens-Halske, Vienna.

8. Four new 3,000 kg furnaces, already delivered by Siemens-Halske, will start operation in June 1955. Installation of three additional 3,000 kg furnaces is planned for 1956. These furnaces are capable of producing all types of aluminum alloys.

9. Ten heating furnaces, each of 2,000 kg capacity, were under construction by Siemens-Schukert engineers in autumn 1954 and probably have been completed.[1] The Austrian firm will also build various pre-heating furnaces for the rolling mill. (Attachment C shows a plan for the installation of the furnaces.)

10. A building for a rolling mill was almost completed in late 1954 and the necessary machinery had already been delivered. The mill will produce plates of any gauge from 0.2 mm to 2.0 mm.

11. The smelting hall is equipped with one 15,000 kg and two 20,000 kg cranes of Czech origin.

12. Production and Supply. Current production consists mainly of aluminum alloys cast as rods. The estimated output in late 1954 was between 16,000 and 20,000 kg aluminum alloys per day. In June 1955, when another four furnaces are scheduled to start operation, production may rise to between 50,000 and 70,000 kg per day. With the operation of all planned furnaces, at some time in 1956, the daily output should reach between 75,000 and 105,000 kg.

13. The plant is supplied with raw materials by railroad. The main raw materials are aluminum blooms measuring approximately 500 x 100 x 100 mm and weighing between s[redacted],[2] and aluminum scrap which was stored in large quantities near t[redacted]way station about 10 km from Kety. Coal is stored at the end o[redacted] and other production materials are kept in the warehouses.

14. The current production of the Kety aluminum plant is used mainly in Poland. When full production is achieved, Poland will be unable to consume the entire output.

15. Power Supply. The plant is supplied with current from the water-power station at Boromka, located 12 kilometers from Kety (Attachment D). The current is fed to the plant by a transformer station nearby. Another transformer station is being built on the grounds of the plant. The Boromka power station is part of a power grid with other producing stations, so t[redacted]nt can be supplied by other power plants in case the Boromka statio[redacted]

16. However, the power supply at Kety is considered inadequate at the present time and constitutes the most serious bottleneck to the expansion of the aluminum plant. The Boromka power station is too small to supply all the power for the completed aluminum plant. While it is possible that additional sources of energy will be hooked up to the grid, the existing power lines are inadequate to transmit a greatly

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increased load. For this reason, it seems unlikely that an aluminum reduction plant will be installed at Kety during the next ten years, unless the Poles construct a huge power plant in the Krakow area.

17. Security

The plant is surrounded by a barbed wire fence and is guarded by about 50 guards in black uniforms with red shoulderboards. These guards, armed with rifles, are posted at the gates and patrol the area around the buildings. All employees, including the foreign specialists temporarily employed there, are required to have a pass with photograph, issued by the security officer, which is valid for only one month. The guards at the gates control every man and also conduct checks inside the plant. Visitors need a permit from the security officer and are accompanied on their way by a guard.

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1 [redacted] Comment. Presumably the USIA Siemens-Schuckert plant at Engerthstrasse 150, Vienna II, is meant. 50X1

2 [redacted] Comment. Aluminum blooms of the size approximated would weigh at least 12 kilograms.

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